

COCAINE USE

- Seven percent of students used any form of cocaine in 1997, and 5% used crack or freebase cocaine. Males were more likely than females to have ever used cocaine or crack. Three percent of students used any form of cocaine in the past 30 days (5% of males and 2% of females).

INHALANTS AND OTHER DRUGS

- Twenty-two percent of students had sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans or inhaled any paint or spray to get high during their lifetimes. No differences were observed by sex (21-23%), but rates decreased sharply with increasing grade level from a high of 26% in 9th graders, to 23% in 10th graders, 19% in 11th graders, and 17% in 12th grade students.
- Six percent of students had taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription, a practice that was more common among males than females.
- Fifteen percent of students had used other types of illegal drugs, including LSD and other hallucinogens, ice or crystal methamphetamine, heroin and others. More males than females had used other illegal drugs, 18% versus 12%, respectively. Use levels increased with grade level -- 13%-14% of 9th and 10th graders, but 17% each of 11th and 12th graders had used illegal drugs.
- Three percent of students had used a needle to inject an illegal drug into their bodies during their lifetimes.

Other High Risk Practices

- In 1997, 53% of students reported ever having had sexual intercourse. Similar percentages of males and females (55% of the former and 52% of the latter) reported having had sexual intercourse. Proportions rise with grade level from 47% of 9th graders to a high of 66% of 12th graders.
- Thirty-eight percent of students had sexual intercourse during the past 3 months. Again, no substantial differences were observed by sex (40%, female students and 37%, male students), but prevalence increased from 9th grade (33%) to 12th grade (48%).
- Confining the comparison to changes in reported practices from 1995 to 1997, fewer students (10% versus 13%) had engaged in early sexual intercourse - defined as initiation before age 13. A decline in early sexual intercourse was noted both for males (from 20% in 1995 to 15% in 1997) and females (8% in 1995 to 6% in 1997).